

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-14 remain in the application, of which claims 1-12 are amended hereby.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-14 stand objected to because reference designators were included in the claims. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c). By this Amendment, applicants have amended the claims to remove any reference designators, and withdrawal of the objections to the claims is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 7 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over International Publication No. PCT WO 02/37771 A2 (*Lindoff*).

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a method for extending the radio coverage area of a communication system operating according to a predetermined radio protocol. The system includes "a primary station having a radio coverage area," "a first secondary station within the coverage area" and "a further secondary station which is located outside of the radio coverage area of the primary station." The method includes a message exchange process in which: "the first secondary station receives from the primary station messages intended for the further secondary station," and "transmits said messages to the further secondary station." The "first secondary station receives from the further secondary station messages intended for the primary station," and "transmits said messages to the primary station."

Thus, advantageously, by way of the claimed invention, a "primary station" can exchange a message with a "first secondary station" that is located within the radio coverage area of the "primary station." The further secondary station, located outside of the radio coverage area of the "primary station," can receive the message from the "first secondary station."

Similarly, the "further secondary station," located outside the radio coverage area of the "primary station," can send a message to the "primary station" via the "first secondary station." Thus, by way of the claimed invention, a "primary station" can communicate with secondary stations outside of the radio coverage area of the primary station.

Lindoff describes a system using mobile terminals having short link radios. As described in *Lindoff*, a base station sends a message to both a master mobile terminal and a slave mobile terminal. In some embodiments, both mobile terminals receive data transmitted from a base station intended for the master mobile terminal. Alternatively, the data from the base station could be split and part transmitted directly to the master mobile terminal and part to the slave mobile terminal. In either case, the slave mobile terminal then retransmits the data received by the slave mobile terminal to the master mobile terminal. *See Lindoff* at page 3, lns. 9-18. *Lindoff* does not describe a "further secondary station which is located outside of the radio coverage area of the primary station."

Applicants submit that *Lindoff* does not describe all of the features of claim 1 of the present application. For example, *Lindoff* does not describe a process whereby a "first secondary station receives from the primary station messages intended for the further secondary station," and "transmits said messages to the further secondary station," wherein the "further secondary station ... is located outside of the radio coverage area of the primary station." Similarly, *Lindoff* does not describe that the "first secondary station receives from the further secondary station messages intended for the primary station," and "transmits said messages to the primary station."

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is deemed to distinguish patentably over *Lindoff*.

Independent claims 7 and 12, while differing in form and scope from claim 1, recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to the patentability of claim 1. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 7 and 12 are patentable over *Lindoff*, at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 1.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-5, 8-10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of *Lindoff* and U.S. Patent No. 6,775,258 (*Valkenburg*).

Each of claims 2-5 ultimately depend from claim 1, each of claims 8-10 ultimately depend from claim 7 and claim 13 depends from claim 12. Accordingly, applicants submit that each of claims 2-5, 8-10 and 13 are patentable over *Lindoff*, at least for depending from one of allowable claims 1, 7 and 12.

Valkenburg is directed to a method for routing packet data in a scatternet communication system, but does not cure the deficiencies of *Lindoff*. *Valkenburg* describes that the BLUETOOTH standard employs a master slave topography, but *Valkenburg* does not describe the features recited by claims 1, 7 and 12 of the present application, such as, for example, *Valkenburg* does not describe "first secondary station receives from the primary station messages intended for the further secondary station," and "transmits said messages to the further secondary station." wherein the "further secondary station ... is located outside of the radio coverage area of the primary station." Similarly, *Valkenburg* does not describe that the "first secondary station receives from the further secondary station messages intended for the primary station," and "transmits said messages to the primary station." *Valkenburg*, either alone, or in combination with *Lindoff*, merely describes that each BLUETOOTH device is capable of being a master device or a slave device. See *Valkenburg* at col. 2, lns 56-59.

Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 2-5, 8-10 and 13 are patentable over *Lindoff* and *Valkenburg*, either taken alone, or in combination.

Claims 6, 11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of *Lindoff* and U.S. Patent No. 6,830,340 (*Olson*).

Each of claims 6, 11 and 14 depend from one of claims 1, 7 and 12, and are thus deemed patentable over *Lindoff* for at least the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of those claims.

Olson is directed to a system for rendering an image to be projected, but does not cure the deficiencies of *Lindoff*. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 6, 11 and 14 are patentable over *Lindoff* and *Olson*, either taken alone or in combination.

Thus, applicants submit that each of the claims of the present application are patentable over each of the references of record, either taken alone, or in any proposed hypothetical combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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